

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00570 180816Z

12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /080 W

----- 052366

R 180740Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4458

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BY

SUBJECT: MICOMBERO RENOMINATED

1. CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF UPRONA, BURUNDI'S SINGLE PARTY, MET SEPTEMBER 16 AND NOMINATED MICHEL MICOMBERO FOR RE-ELECTION AS SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONGRESS. SINCE CONSTITUTION PROMULGATED IN JULY PROVIDES THAT UPRONA SECRETARY-GENERAL IS EX OFFICIO PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI, RE-ELECTION WILL BE AS PRESIDENT TOO.

2. PUBLISHED ACCOUNT OF MEETING STATES PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE PROPOSE MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE BUT WAS REFUSED. WHILE NO EVIDENCE YET AVAILABLE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WAS SERIOUS PROPOSAL.

3. NO INDICATION AS YET WHEN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD, BUT PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS IT LIKELY BE FARILY SOON WITHOUT MUCH ADVANCE WARNING.

4. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT TIMING OF THIS MOVE IS LINKED TO POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN ESTABLISHMENT, BUT IF SO ITS IMPORT NOT YET CLEAR.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: WHEN RE-ELECTION COMPLETED MICOMBERO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE NUMEROUS MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION FROM OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE, DESPITE SELF-GENERATED AND FARCICAL NATURE OF ELECTORAL PROCESS. EMBASSY BELIEVES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FROM PROTOCOL POINT OF VIEW AND SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH BEGIN PREPARATION FOR SAME. IN VIEW OF PERVERTED NATURE OF ELECTION, WE PROPOSE THAT REFERENCE BE TO "RENEWAL OF YOUR MANDATE AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI" AND NOT TO "RE-ELECTION."
MARK

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NNN

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TAGS: PINT, BY, (MICOMBERO, MICHEL)
To: STATE
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